



Start:ME

2019 Shopping Guide





\$19K for *Start:ME* '19 Campaign

In celebration of the Start:ME Class of 2019, we are conducting the **\$19K for *Start:ME* '19 Campaign**. All gifts made by April 30th will be matched dollar-for-dollar by a Start:ME mentor.

Your gift will help the class of 2019 continue their development and build stronger businesses by supporting year-round alumni programming.

We invite you to support the campaign at startmeatl.org/invest-today

Our Community's Progress



208

small businesses served



91%

alumni actively operating



75+

Start:ME mentors



85%

led by people of color



Start:ME



69%

led by women



295

jobs created or retained



37

brick and mortars



6.3M

in annual revenue

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About Start:ME

Start:ME is an intensive accelerator program for promising local small businesses. We serve entrepreneurs who live in, work in, and/or provide valuable products and services to the Clarkston, East Lake, and Southside Atlanta communities. During the program, and beyond, we connect entrepreneurs to the know-how, mentorship, and funding necessary to build and grow businesses.

Start:ME is delivered by **Emory University's Goizueta Business School** in partnership with trusted community lead nonprofit organizations **the East Lake Foundation, Friends of Refugees, Focused Community Strategies (FCS), and Purpose Built Schools Atlanta** along with 75+ volunteer business mentors.

Special thanks to our cross-community supporters, **The Goizueta Foundation, PNC Bank, and WABE.**



startmeatl.org



[@StartMEaccelerator](https://www.facebook.com/StartMEaccelerator)



[@startmeatl](https://www.instagram.com/startmeatl)



[Start:ME Atlanta](https://www.linkedin.com/company/startmeatl)



Art, Design, & Fashion

Class of 2019 Ventures



Asha Hira Chhetri
Bhutanese and Nepalese artisan products, clothing, and accessories

Email: hiramiss@yahoo.com



Black & Bilingual
Erica Baker
Apparel for men, women, and children that showcases the multilingual diversity of the Black Diaspora

Find online: blackbilingual.com



Heart Mercedes
Mercedes Rivera
Handmade artisan goods and creative management services promoting the "Random Acts of Kindness" movement

Find online: heartmercedes.etsy.com



Sihle Style
Delisiwe Floyd
South African handcrafted products that empower women affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic

Find on Instagram: @deldelisiwe



The Local Gem
Lizzy Jackson
Yoga Studio + Gift Shop with an assortment of locally made goods

Find online: thelocalgemsmv.com



The Privy Company
Kolette Cooksey
One-of-a-kind and budget-friendly clothing apparel, accessories, and upholstered home furnishings

Email: kolette.cooksey@gmail.com

Ventures from Previous Years

Business	Entrepreneur	Description	How to Shop
Sunavworld	Sushma Barakoti	Fair trade arts and crafts produced by women's groups in Nepal	sunavworld.com
Carla's Boutik	Carla Bailey	Store featuring an eclectic fusion of fashion, art, and beauty products from around the globe	carlasboutik.com
Rochelle Porter Design	Rochelle Porter	Beautifully designed sustainable home decor and fashion textiles	rochelleporter.com
GAS-ART GIFTS	Richard Gregory Christie	Children's bookstore and open art studio run by award winning artist and illustrator	gas-art.com
Arbitrary Living	Quianah Upton	Vintage, handmade, and one-of-a-kind home decor and furnishings	arbitraryliving.com
Johari Africa	Doris Mukangu	Hand-crafted ethnocentric jewelry and fashion with a story	johariafrica.com
Frey's Handcraft	Frezewd Teklu	Handcrafted Ethiopian art, clothing and accessories	facebook.com/ethiopianhandcraft/
King and Lola	Jasmine Walker	Online clothing boutique offering unique and quality clothing for newborns and toddlers	kingandlola.com
Lay-ette	Francoise Carroll	Prepackaged sets of ethically produced baby clothing that satisfy all the basic needs	lay-ette.com
Mzz Gwen's Custom Creations	Gwendolyn Farris	Custom designed surgical hats for the medical and food service industries	mzgwenf@hotmail.com
Big Ego Beauty Boutique	Roselyn Coleman	Upscale and comfortable fashion for plus sized women	facebook.com/roselyn.coleman/
That's a Wrap!	Mia Canada	Luxury gift wrapping and balloon decor services	thatsawrapatl.com
T.Tarice	Terra Coles	Leather goods brand representing classic quality, simple design, and impeccable craftsmanship	ttarice.com

Business	Entrepreneur	Description	How to Shop
Southern Charm Promotions	Daniale Stowers	Marketing company specializing in printable items	facebook.com/southerncharmpromotions/
Myshafashion	Mili Akter Shimla	Traditional dress making and tailoring	myshafashion@gmail.com
Art Houze Alive	TaTanysha "TwinSpirit" Rosby	Arts incubator & special events center	arthouzealive.com
The Topsy Flowerpot	Deidra Myers	Floral arrangements made with upcycled materials	instagram.com/TopsyFlowerpot/
Sunshine Jewelry and Watch Repairs.	Sumayas Karimi	A family owned and operated jewelry shop	sunshinejwr.com



Childcare & Education

Class of 2019 Ventures



Higher Ground Education
William Teasley
Computer science and coding learning opportunities for young people in underserved communities in Atlanta

Find online: hgei-atlanta.org



My eSTEAM Kits
Jahari Soward
E-commerce learning system igniting curiosity in entrepreneurship & STEAM careers through hands on experiments

Find online: myesteamkits.com



Sitters Express
Sumayyah Abdus-Saboor
Safe and reliable transportation service for children between the ages of 4-17 years old

Find online: sittersexpress.com



Tidy Tooty
Sheldon Prescott & Naima Smart
Cloth diaper delivery service for families of newborns, infants, and toddlers

Find online: tidytooty.com



TinyYogis
TaJuana F Blakley
Childrens yoga classes that center on FUN!

Find on Facebook: [@TinyYogis](https://www.facebook.com/TinyYogis)



Veoleo
Janike Ruginis Gross
Independent publisher selling Spanish bilingual children's books for Spanish speaking and learning families

Find online: veoleo.co

Ventures from Previous Years

Business	Entrepreneur	Description	How to Shop
Language International Kids Educational Services	Shirah Frazier	International themed after-school program, camps, and preschool	languageinternationalkids.com
Elegant Event Sitters	Tish Davis	Special event on site and hotel based child care services	eleganteventsitters.com
Daddy's Little Girls .	Lauren Myers	African-American educational dolls	dolls4dlg.com
Fun Weird Science	Ronnie Thomas	K-12 STEAM enrichment services	funweirdscience.com
Minw Learning	Tchaas Omijeolukore	Academic enrichment and coaching services	minwlearning.com
SheWill	Sheena Williams	Financial literacy and career empowerment lecturer for women's groups	shewill.org

Business	Entrepreneur	Description	How to Shop
Sankofa Education Services	Maralene Ferguson	<i>Tutoring and test preparation services</i>	sankofaeducation.weebly.com
After Dark Day Care	Colleen Bell & Ivory Shyleen	<i>Safe and trusted child care for hardworking parents who work late and night shifts</i>	careerwriter2004@yahoo.com
Naumba Child Care	Victoria Buko	<i>In home childcare for young mothers</i>	victoriabuko@gmail.com



Food & Drink

Class of 2019 Ventures



Amani Catering
Shaista Amani & Barbara Murphy
Afghan cuisine featuring fresh ingredients and Afghan spices

Find online: amanicatering.com



Artistic Soul Catering
Antoine & Farah Artis
American cuisine with Cajun and Caribbean influences

Find online: artisticsoulcatering.com



Beautiful Healthy You
Jennifer DuPree
Meals, meal delivery, and nutrition education services for those with special dietary needs

Email: dupreejennifer@gmail.com



Bread And Butter Farms
Musa & Micole Hasan
Organically grown produce, breads, butters, and oils delivered to areas lacking access to high quality produce

Find online: breadandbutterfarms.com



Bueno's Brazilian Barbecue
Wellyngthon Bueno de Souza & Jackie Sterling
Brazilian BBQ catering services

Find on Facebook: [Bueno's Brazilian Barbecue](https://www.facebook.com/Buenos-Brazilian-Barbecue)



Khonso Brewing
Kevin Downing, Corby Hannah, & William Teasley
Craft brewery with distribution across Georgia and coming to the Southside soon

Find online: khonsobrewing.com



Lulu Oluwatominsin Falegan
Casual brunch cafe in Clarkston which provides opportunities to empower the community's youth

Email: tomifalegan@gmail.com



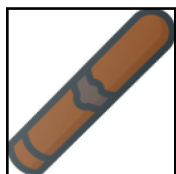
Poppa Corn's Gourmet Popcorn
Keith Forrester
Kirkwood store featuring gourmet popcorn popped on-site and old-fashioned candy

Find online: poppa-corns.com/



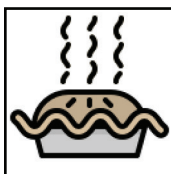
SoulFull Catering & Events
Tanisehia & Brian Terrell
Full service Cajun and Creole catering company

Find on Facebook: [@soulfullcateringevents](https://www.facebook.com/@soulfullcateringevents)



SWATS Cigar
Janelle Lamar
Premium cigars hand-rolled in Southwest Atlanta

Email: janellelamar@gmail.com



Sweet Librarians
Rosaria Beatles, Rashon Wynn, Valarie Smith & Owen Smith
Bakery using old-family recipes for home-made jumbo cupcakes, butterscotch squares, cakes, and sweet potato pies

Email: rb4336@yahoo.com

Ventures from Previous Years

Business	Entrepreneur	Description	How to Shop
The Atlanta Beer Boutique	Jen Price	<i>Soon to open craft beer shop and provider of workshops, tastings, and in-home consultations</i>	atlantabeerboutique.com
Suryana Cuisine	Malek Alarmash & Majeda Nakshbandi	<i>Syrian catering company</i>	suryanacuisine.com
Chef Jarvis Belton Catering	Jarvis Belton	<i>Professional catering service for corporate luncheons and special occasions</i>	chefjarvisbelton.com
Sweet, Sweet Syria	Ruwaida G. Khaled G, and Amanda Avutu	<i>Traditional Syrian cookies and catering</i>	sweetsweetsyria.com
Fruity Ice Treats	Alicia Gibbons	<i>Mobile dessert catering focusing on Italian Ice</i>	instagram.com/fruityiceandsweettreats/
Dolphin's Water Ice Factory	Dolphin Coley	<i>Retail & wholesale assorted flavors of Italian Ice</i>	facebook.com/Dolphinsatlanta/
Grow with the Flow	Roger and Reggie Ramos	<i>CSA growing vegetable gardens on homeowners' lawns in Tucker</i>	growwiththeflow.com
Esto Etno Fine Bakery	Tiina D'Souza	<i>Low-sugar baked goods, Estonian rye bread, and other fermented rye products</i>	estoetno.com
WunderGrubs	Akissi Stokes	<i>Tasty treats made from meal worms and a blend of granola, nuts, berries, and fruit</i>	wundergrubs.com
Krumbz	Nicole Massiah	<i>Bakery offering custom cakes and cookies</i>	facebook.com/krumbzbakery/
Sweets, Treats and More!	Nicole Boney	<i>Bakery specializing in custom desserts</i>	iboney.com
Deorali Grocery	Mohan Gurung	<i>Grocery store offering traditional and local food to the Clarkston community</i>	Visit the store: 916 Montreal Rd, Clarkston, GA 30021
Anything Vegan	Jasmine Simon	<i>Mission-driven health literacy company also selling food products</i>	anythingvegan.com
The Allergy Friendly Vegetarian	Jessica McMorris	<i>Vegan-friendly baked goods & other foods for those with food challenges</i>	tafv.net
Simply Doyenne'	Tangenika Wilson	<i>Organic juices that deliver nutritional benefits without sacrificing taste</i>	instagram.com/simplydoyenne/
Amele Catering	Fisseha Bartolomeos	<i>Ethiopian catering food service</i>	facebook.com/Amele-Catering-1748480602045506/
Gabriel's International Bakery and Cuisine	Aqueelah James	<i>Modern Caribbean style catering services</i>	gibctreats.com
Love That Jerk Catering	Luetrina Broderick	<i>Caribbean catering service</i>	steady47@bellsouth.net
Suya Express	Rahila Manu	<i>Catering service offering traditional West African cuisine</i>	ndakograzia@yahoo.com
Almaz Coffee	Almaz Welday	<i>Authentic coffee shop with an international flair coming to Clarkston soon</i>	almazwest@gmail.com
Family Thyme	Adrienne Howard	<i>Pre-made well-balanced meals for working families</i>	ahoward612@yahoo.com
Katleya Food Specialties	Gigi Cavanaugh	<i>Molded ice cream and sorbets formed into 3-D shapes like flowers, fruits, and animals</i>	gimecav@att.net



Health & Wellness

Class of 2019 Ventures



Atlanta Massage Clinic
Sonia Boglo
Massage and rehabilitation services

Email: soniaboglo1@gmail.com



Butter Me Up by JRená
Jacqueline Otey
Skin care product line featuring homemade natural whipped body butters in over 25 scents, lip balms, and more

Find online: butter-me-up-by-jrena.square.site



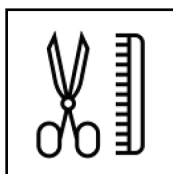
Eazie Peazie Naturals
Koby Gillam
Handmade natural skincare products, including soaps, lotions, bars, body butters, scrubs, and tub teas

Find online: eaziepeazienaturals.com



Gohealthyhair
Jamekia Harper
Hair care services with an exceptional focus on customer service

Find online: styleseat.com/m/v/gohealthyhair



Howard's Luxury Shop
Jhanisha Clark
Community focused barber shop

Email: clark.jhanisha@gmail.com



Medical Care Trans
Dwight Eberhart, Tyrone Scott
Howard, Troy Brumfield & Derek Smith
Reliable non-emergency transportation services for South Atlanta residents with mobility challenges

Find online: medicalcaretrans.com



Moisture Love
Jeannell Darden
Plant based products for women with curly hair that desire a higher degree of moisture

Find online: moisturelove.com



Progressive Center for Wellness
Raelynn Bass
Mental health and wellness services, including psychotherapy, mindfulness training, and meditation

Find online: raelynn bass.com



Royal Thanaka
Mary Ellen Sheehan, Htwe Htwe, and Jeff Alexander
All-natural skincare products infused with Thanaka, a traditional Burmese ingredient with cooling and astringent properties

Find online: royalthanaka.com



The Progress Place
Tonica Logan & Brandie Bishop
A collaboration of mental health professionals supporting young people confronting problems

Find online: progressplace.net



Women are Women Around the World
Nena Omijeolukore
Support services for new mothers to help mom feel happy, healed, and whole

Email: womenarewomen@gmail.com



Yaya's Natural Hair Boutique
Yakini Horn
Natural hair salon catering to hair and skin care through services and products

Find online: yayas-natural-hair-boutique.business.site

Ventures from Previous Years

Business	Entrepreneur	Description	How to Shop
SHWAXX Laboratories	Kevin Rodgers	Helping to build healthier self-images through professional grooming and handcrafted products	shwaxx.com
Yelani	Yetunde Jude	Plant-based hair care products for kinky to curly hair	yelani.com
Sons of Pitches FC	Chris Wedge	Atlanta soccer club offering in-town soccer leagues, tournaments, and pickups	sonsofpitchesfc.com
Indigo Wellness	Paris Campeau	Full-service boutique spa located in Atlanta's Kirkwood neighborhood	indigowellnessatl.com
Best Face Forward Cosmetics	Ashley Gordon	Organic makeup for women of color using non-toxic and vegan ingredients	bestfaceforwardcosmetics.com

Business	Entrepreneur	Description	How to Shop
Simple 'n' Pure Natural Products	Gary Chang	Natural home and beauty skin care products with medicinal herbs	simpleandpuresoaps.com
Cool Moms Dance Too	Quyionah Wingfield	Family dance fitness company that builds healthier families mentally and physically	coolmomsdancetoo.com
Fitness Transformation Club	Michelle Campbell	Trainer servicing health-conscious, busy moms in the Metro Atlanta area	bodybychellefitness.com
Massage Art Studio	Dasha Price	Clinical massage therapist specializing in physical rehabilitation	massageartstudio.com
Smugs Fitness	Sam Mugavero	Personal and group training for individuals and corporate wellness programs	smugsfitness.com
Timeless Framework	Lanard C. Atkins	Eyeglass frames, lenses, and contacts for the tv and film industry	timelessframework.com
Kathmandu's	Deepak Bhandari	Distributor of smoked hard cheese dog treats that are a specialty product of Nepal	kathmandus.com
Chattapoochie Dog Hiking Adventures	Leslie Doucette	Dog hiking adventures for your four legged friends	doghikesatl.com
Hay, Good Dog!	Kara Haygood	Pet sitting and grooming for South Atlanta residents	vanstrauss@yahoo.com
Black Lotus Custom Hair and Body Care	Stephanie Brazier	Custom made organic skin and hair products for your every day needs	mymuddyroots@gmail.com
Myers Assessment and Therapeutic Services	Ajah Myers	Tutoring and therapy services for children and adults with developmental disabilities	myersassessment.com
A Paradigm Shift	Katrina Pittman	Solution focused therapist promoting a holistic approach	drkpittman.com
Restore Counseling and Care Management	Emily Fitzpatrick	Private psychotherapy practice	restoreccm.com
Spa Doulah-lah at the Belly & Yoni Bar	Safira Zayas	Massage therapy & birthing support for expecting mothers	spadoulah-lah.com
Comfort On Tha Go	Keicha Moore	Mobile beauty salon serving the Clarkston area	facebook.com/comfortonthago/
Ki of Life Reiki	Alicia Dawkins	Energy therapist and Reiki practitioner focused on pain, stress, and low energy	kioflifereiki.com
Beauty for Ashes	Charmaine Davis	Ethnic beauty supply company offering custom made wigs and self-development classes	Charmainedavis724@gmail.com
Tru.Self.Fitness	Samiyah Gumbs	Fitness and wellness coaching	samiyahf@hotmail.com



Home Care & Repair

Class of 2019 Ventures



A. Paige Design
Allison Vandiver
Interior design studio with diverse experience in commercial, hospitality, and healthcare design

Find online: houzz.com/pro/apagidesign/a-paige-design



Bellwood Construction
Jason Scroggins
Remodeling contractor in Atlanta specializing in kitchens, bathrooms, and great experiences!

Find on Facebook: @Bellwood-Construction



Helix Cleaning Services
Lawrence Johnson & Steven Coffie
Residential and commercial cleaning and janitorial services

Find online: helixcleaningservices.com



L3 Trucking
Rafid Alzubadi
General freight carrier serving businesses in metro Atlanta

Find online: Search for L3 Trucking



Peach State Pressure Wash
David Sessions
Pressure washing company serving residential and commercial customers around Atlanta

Find online: peachstatewash.com



Refix Renovations
Candace Lucas
Property maintenance and renovation services for residential and commercial properties

Find on Facebook: @refixrenovations



Snatchman Towing Service
Darius & Kristy Hall
Emergency roadside assistance and towing services serving the Clarkston area

Find online: snatchmantowing.com



The Finishing Touch
Steven Smucker
Deck, fence, and storage shed construction

Email: smucker2@gmail.com



The Moxie Maids
Stephanie Richardson-Parker & William Parker
Online and reliable cleaning service for residential, commercial, and short-term rental properties

Find online: themoxiemajds.com

Ventures from Previous Years

Business	Entrepreneur	Description	How to Shop
Saboor Construction	Musa Abdus-Saboor	<i>Electrical contractor for both residential and commercial properties</i>	saboorconstruction.com
Smart Choice Electric	Dion Reina	<i>Full service electrical contractor serving all of metro-Atlanta</i>	smartchoicellectric.net
Community Electric	Lawrence Sturkey	<i>Full service residential and commercial electrician</i>	facebook.com/CommunityElectricATL/ unitedmovingsystems.com
United Moving Systems	Jehan Spann	<i>Full-service commercial moving/relocation company serving metro-Atlanta</i>	unitedmovingsystems.com
Daisy's Concierge	Darryl Prewitt	<i>Clarkston area Concierge Service</i>	Daisysconcierge@gmail.com
Network Atlanta Inc	Misgana Bedassa	<i>Computer refurbishing and recycling</i>	networkatlanta.com
Tropical Lawn Care (TLC)	Joseph E. Allen Jr.	<i>Lawn care services and small engine repair shop</i>	tlcsmallenginerepair.com
Dad's Tree Care Inc.	James Rhynold	<i>Arborist providing tree care services for East Lake and Kirkwood residents</i>	facebook.com/dadstrecare/
Cornerstone Handyman	Joshua Shirley	<i>Handyman and contracting services for the East Lake and Kirkwood community</i>	cornerstonehandyman.com
Ritual Purity	Diane Ford	<i>Cleaning and organizing services for senior citizens</i>	ritual-purity.com
Famous Cleaners & Laundromat	Mahendra Dahal	<i>Dry cleaning business and coin-operated laundromat retailer</i>	famouslaundry.com
Fix My Repairs	Jason Mayers & Stanella Victor	<i>Reliable and knowledgeable home repair professionals</i>	thumbtack.com/-Decatur-GA/service/2271239
Pettway Enterprise	Melvin Pettway	<i>Junk removal and landscaping</i>	mpettway2011@yahoo.com
A Crystal Green Cleaning Service	Thekla Holder	<i>Cleaning and detoxing service provider for residential and commercial properties</i>	crystalgreencleanatl@gmail.com
Cleanganics	Ebon L. Harris, Sr.	<i>Commercial cleaning company that uses environmentally friendly products</i>	ebon@cleanganics.com
eLife Tech Consult	Justine Okello	<i>Community rooted tech-hub providing affordable refurbished computers and technical consulting</i>	justineokello@gmail.com
Carey Steele Security	April Williams	<i>Security guards for commercial properties, construction projects, and special events</i>	linkedin.com/in/carey-steele-security--20891014b/
NestMoving Storage and Delivery	Nestor Djiwat Ngongang	<i>Home and commercial moving services</i>	djiwatnestor.wixsite.comnestmoving



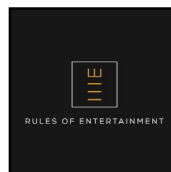
Media & Photography

Class of 2019 Ventures



Bonnie J Heath Photog-
raphy
Bonnie Heath
Experienced photographer serv-
ing Atlanta area small businesses

Find online: bonniejheath.com



Rules of Entertainment
Elizah Turner
Support services for local musi-
cians, from data analysis to al-
bum marketing

Find online: rulesofentertainment.com

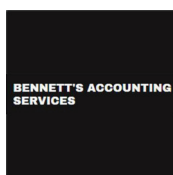
Ventures from Previous Years

Business	Entrepreneur	Description	How to Shop
Life Size Media	Eric Thompson	Videography services for small and medium sized businesses	lifesizemedia.tv
BRMB Radio	Danielle Osofsky	Online hip-hop and rock radios station supporting local artists	brmbradiolive.com
Tiffany Powell Photography	Tiffany Powell	Photography studio specializing in portraits & personal branding for entrepreneurs	tiffany-powell.com
Contoured Camera	Sailauna Scott Madison	Full service portrait service from makeup to photoshoot	sailaunamadison.com
Delightful Sites	Leslie Brashear	Web design and digital marketing for small businesses focused on the food industry	delightfulsites.team
Perfect 10 Media	Jason Jackson	Web design and digital media services	perfect10media.com
Ruby Brick	Sarah Quezada	Content marketing services for nonprofits and small businesses	rubybrick.com
Tia Culver PR	Tia Culver	Marketing & PR firm specializing in event planning, branding, and digital marketing	tiaculver.net
Mark SQuared	Karlotta Washington	Creative space for filmmakers, photographers, and performing artists	marksquaredstudiosatlanta.com
Soulfisticated Productions	Luna Reid	Executive multimedia production company	soulfisticated@hotmail.com



Professional Services

Class of 2019 Ventures



Bennett's Accounting Services
Josh Bennett
Virtual and on-demand accounting services to help small businesses understand their financials

Find online: bennettsaccountingservices.com



Bsapp's Transition Services
Brittany Sapp
Resume and cover letters assistance for East Lake residents

Email: brittanyvsapp@yahoo.com



Doorway
Joi Faison Saleem
Helping small business owners enter their thrive and capture time, money, creativity, and heart through the power of systems

Find Joi on LinkedIn

Ventures from Previous Years

Business	Entrepreneur	Description	How to Shop
Melin Michelle Events	Melinda Brundidge & Johnathan Brundidge	Full service event planning company specializing in weddings & corporate events	melinmichelle.com
The Williams Insurance Group	Amma Williams	Insurance agency specializing in home, auto, life, and business insurance	awilliams@thewilliamsinsgrp.com
Serve University	Brandi Rae Hicks	Training for nonprofit leaders and communiterians	ServeUniversity.org
Eden Fesshazion Attorney at Law	Eden Fesshazion	Affordable legal services for immigrant populations	edenfesshazion.com
Bookkeeping and Me	Sandra & Johnnie Jackson	Bookkeeping and accounting services for businesses	bookkeepingandme.com
Up & Running Accounting Services	Latoria Rachal	Customized small business accounting and bookkeeping	uraccountingservices.com
Advanced Information Services (AIS)	Gloria Jackson	Administrative & financial services for individuals and businesses	jackson.gloria1@gmail.com
The Best Desk Meeting Space, TBD	Folami Prescott-Adams	An online database of meeting spaces in metro-Atlanta	htcatalysts.net
POSH The Elite	Anhtisha Cole	Consultant for hair stylist	anhtisha@poshtheelite.com
Southern Star Group Development	Soisette Lumpkin	Consortium of health and human services to support community development	slumpkin04@gmail.com
ATL Services	William J. Madison IV	Planning and concierge service specializing in local brewery tours and luxury road trips	wjmad4@gmail.com
1 Amazing Event	Virginia D. Bray	Event planning company serving brides, grooms and others	1amazingevent@gmail.com
Le Reve Travel	Nathalie Wibabara	Reservation and accommodation services for international and domestic travel	nathaliewibabara@gmail.com



Start:ME Spotlight

During the 2019 program, we profiled entrepreneurs and mentors to get to know them and their businesses. Here are a few samples of those conversions.

Shaista Amani & Barbara Murphy - Amani Catering



Q: We love the food you brought in for one of the dinners during the program! What makes Afghani food special and how do you hope to convey that to your customers?

A: Afghan cuisine is quite unique. Unlike food from its neighbors to the east, the spices used in our dishes are not too hot, and yet very flavorful at the same time. Travelers from the other countries find Afghan cuisine very tasty and healthy, so I believe its unlike other fast food available in the Atlanta area. Everything is made of the finest ingredients. We don't use any processed or artificial flavors in our food, so there are a lot of health benefits too. As part of our Afghani culture we love to feed our guests our best recipes so along with a good taste there will be a warm environment too.

Read more at startmeatl.org/2019Class/Amani-Catering

Kolette Cooksey - The Privy Company

Q: Your adoptive mother had a major influence on you and your design skills. Tell us a little about her.

A: Every morning as she dressed me as a little girl, she would smile so bright, give me the biggest hug and kiss me while telling me that I am the most beautiful girl in the world! It was the best feeling ever. Although we were of very meager means, she gave me her very best and never let on that I was not biologically hers until I was much older. Most of all she cultivated a conducive environment for constant creativity by buying me all sorts of art supplies. She would let me play and put on her make-up and dress-up for hours on end. She kept me dressed like a colorful princess and always put something aside for me so that I could continue to commandeer creativity.



Read more at startmeatl.org/2019Class/The-Privy-Company

Erica Baker - Black & Bilingual



Q: What does being Black and Bilingual mean to you?

A: To me, being Black & Bilingual is truly a lifestyle. Spanish is not my native language, so I have to constantly practice and speak it on a daily basis. I have been studying Spanish for 15 years, and I still listen to videos, do workbooks, and so on. Black & Bilingual is also a statement. Language is a hidden aspect of someone's personality, and only comes out when necessary. I am a Black girl from Georgia that can and will Spanish at any given moment. When I speak Spanish in public, I often get crazy looks like "what's going on?" or "wow, that was surprising". I wanted to create something that gave language a face, especially in the Black community, so I founded Black & Bilingual.

Read more at startmeatl.org/2019Class/Black-%26-Bilingual

Nakia Melecio - Southside Mentor

Q: What has been your favorite part of mentoring with Start:ME?

A: My experience as a mentor with Start:ME has been rewarding on many levels. It is difficult to pinpoint a single favorite part of this journey. If I were to narrow it down, it would be the dynamic collaboration with mentors and entrepreneurs. Working with mentors and entrepreneurs incites a sense of community, which I both thoroughly enjoy and appreciate. This is punctuated by the privilege of sharing in the transcendent moments of entrepreneurs, whether they start moving in a progressive direction or reach their full potential. The relationships built are powerful.



Read more at startmeatl.org/Mentor/Nakia-Melecio

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Class of 2019 Family Pictures

East Lake



Clarkston



Southside



